

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EPA-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-12 EUR-12 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00  
SOE-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 INR-07 IO-14 L-03  
NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-05 USIA-15 OES-07 SS-15  
SP-02 DOE-11 INT-05 OIC-02 /138 R

DRAFTED BY EPA/A-106:KMACONAUGHEY  
APPREVED BY OES/ENP/EN:DKING  
EPA/A:IFULLER  
EPA/WH:LMILLER  
EPA/A:DTOAKLEY  
EPA/A:ABPOPKIN  
EA/J:RCHRISTENSON  
EPA/OTS:TSHGART  
EUR/RPE:WDAMERON

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R 131943Z JAN 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
INFO MEMBASSY STOCKHOLM 9858  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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PARIS ALSO USOECD

CORRECTED COPY (DELETE PARIS AS INFO ADDEE)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, JA

SUBJECT:TOXIC SUBSTANCES  
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REF: (A) TOKYO 188791, (B) STATE 281111, (C) STATE 302720

1. REF (C) UPDATES AND MODIFIES REF (B). IN RESPONDING  
TO GOJ CONCERNS REGARDING PLANNED MEETING OF SIX OECD  
TESTING EXPERT GROUPS IN WASHINGTON FEBRUARY 21-24, REQUEST  
EMBASSY CONVEY FOLLOWING POINTS: DURING THE NOVEMBER 1977  
SESSION OF THE OECD CHEMICALS GROUPS, THE U.S. OFFERED TO

HOST A JOINT MEETING OF THE EXPERT GROUPS. THE CHAIRMEN OF THREE GROUPS (STEP SEQUENCE-SWEDEN, LONG-TERM TOXICOLOGY-U.S., AND SHORT-TERM TOXICOLOGY-UNITED KINGDOM) HAVE ALREADY CONFIRMED THEIR ATTENDANCE. IT IS HIGHLY PROBABLE THAT THE PHYSICAL-CHEMICAL GROUP (GERMANY) AND THE ECOTOXICOLOGY GROUP (NETHERLANDS) WILL ALSO ATTEND. JAPAN IS CO-CHAIRMAN WITH GERMANY FOR THE PERSISTENCE/BIODEGRADATION GROUP. PARTICIPANTS WILL BE AT THE EXPERT WORKINGLEVEL. (U.S. POLICYMAKERS IN THE TOXIC SUBSTANCE FIELD (COSTLE, BLUM, JELLINEK) ARE EXPECTED TO SPEAK AT THE PLENARY SESSIONS.

OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING: ALTHOUGH A PRELIMINARY PLAN FOR THE WORK OF THE GROUPS WAS CONSIDERED AT THE LAST MEETING OF THE OECD CHEMICALS GROUP, THERE WAS INSUFFICIENT TIME TO REACH AGREEMENT ON HOW THE GROUPS SHOULD PROCEED TO MEET THEIR ASSIGNED GOALS. THE WASHINGTON MEETING IS DESIGNED TO FILL THAT GAP. BY HAVING ALL SIX GROUPS TOGETHER, THERE WILL BE SUFFICIENT OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP A COHERENT, COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY TOWARD INTERNATIONAL HARMONIZATION OF TESTING WHICH WILL ENSURE THAT THE GROUPS' APPROACHES ARE COMPLEMENTARY AND NOT DUPLICATIVE. THIS MEETING WILL LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS OF THE SIX GROUPS.

ANOTHER OBJECTIVE OF THE MEETING IS TO EXCHANGE UP TO  
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DATE INFORMATION ON NATIONAL TESTING POLICIES IN THE REGULATION OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES. THE VARIOUS U.S. AGENCIES WITH RELEVANT TESTING PROGRAMS PLAN TO PRESENT AND EXPLAIN THEIR APPROACHES AND REGULATORY RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH WE UNDERSTAND WILL BE OF INTEREST TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS. THE MEETING WILL ALSO CLARIFY THE TESTING STRATEGIES PROPOSED BY OTHER KEY GOVERNMENTS. IN THIS REGARD

WE BELIEVE THAT JAPAN'S ABSENCE WOULD LEAVE A SERIOUS GAP SINCE IT IS THE ONLY COUNTRY WITH INDEPTH EXPERTISE AND PRACTICAL REGULATORY EXPERIENCE IN PERSISTENCE/BIODEGRADATION OF CHEMICALS.

WE FULLY RECOGNIZE THAT JAPAN--LIKE ALL GOVERNMENTS--MUST SET ITS OWN PRIORITIES WITH REGARD TO ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL. WE HOPE THAT THE GOJ WILL ATTEND THE MEETINGS IN FEBRUARY. WE SINCERELY BELIEVE THAT JAPAN WILL FIND THE PROCEEDINGS OF FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE TO THE OECD CHEMICALS GROUP PROGRAM IN GENERAL AND TO THE WORK OF THE PERSISTENCE/BIODEGRADATION EXPERT GROUP IN PARTICULAR.

IF THE GOJ HAS ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS, WE WILL BE GLAD  
TO RESPOND.

2. LETTER TO KIYOSHI YONEDA, JAPANESE EXECUTIVE  
SECRETARY, U.S./JAPAN ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT, DATED  
NOVEMBER 28, 1977 (COPY ALREADY SENT TO SCICOUN)

PROPOSED LATE SEPTEMBER EARLY OCTOBER TIME FRAME AS  
APPROPRIATE TIME FOR THIRD JOINT PLANNING AND COORDINATION  
COMMITTEE MEETING. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TOXINS & ANTITOXINS, MEETINGS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Subject:** TOXIC SUBSTANCES UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED  
**TAGS:** SENV, JA, OECD  
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